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ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

B-234 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

April 15, 2019

Mr. Louis J. Celli, Jr.
 Executive Director
 The American Legion
 1608 K Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Celli:

On Monday, April 29, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in room 1334 of the Longworth House Office Building, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will meet in an open session to conduct a full committee hearing entitled "Tragic Trends: Suicide Prevention Among Veterans." This oversight hearing will examine the heartbreaking trend of veteran suicide on the grounds of VA facilities. This discussion will be an opportunity for VA to outline its recent shift towards suicide prevention as part of a public health model. The Committee will explore VA's efforts at surveillance, data analysis, and the development of effective interventions. In addition, the Committee seeks to better understand the support, training, and counseling VA may offer to the veteran's family, frontline providers, support staff, and security personnel in response to an on-campus suicide.

I write to invite you to submit a statement for the record on behalf of The American Legion regarding the work TAL is doing at a national and local level to engage with veterans and local communities to counter veteran suicide. I would also like your views on moving suicide prevention to a "public health model." Please confirm your intention to submit by contacting Ms. Elizabeth Mackenzie, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health, via email at Elizabeth.Mackenzie@mail.house.gov, and copying Ms. Rasheedah Hasan, Chief Clerk, via email at Rasheedah.Hasan@mail.house.gov. Your complete written statement will be made a part of the hearing record. Please send an electronic copy of your written statement in Microsoft Word format to Ms. Mackenzie and Ms. Hasan at the above email addresses by no later than 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2019.

We look forward to your participation in this hearing and thank you for your commitment to our nation's veterans. If you have any questions, please contact the Committee on Veterans' Affairs at (202) 225-9756.

Sincerely,

Mark Takano
 Chairman

cc: Dr. Phil Roe, Ranking Member